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STATINTL

# Russians Rejected Two In Exchange of Prisoners

## Turned Down Pair Seized as Spies Here

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The Russians rejected an opportunity to include Robert K. Baltch and his wife, Joy Ann, suspected Soviet spies using assumed identities, in the exchange last week in which two were traded for two Russians held here on spy charges.

Authoritative sources disclosed today that the Russians could have had the couple, who posed under the name of Baltch, as well as Ivan Egorov and his wife, Aleksandra, in exchange for the two Americans but spurned the offer.

"They don't even acknowledge that the Baltches exist," an American official said today. "It could have been a four-for-two deal, and they turned it down."

### Initiated in U. N.

The negotiated trade was the idea of the Russians and was first broached to American officials at the United Nations. The Egorovs, both Russian citizens, were working at the U. N. when the U. S. seized them in a roundup last July.

In exchange for the Egorovs, the Russians offered two American prisoners.

holding as spies — the Rev. Walter M. Clazek, 58, a Roman Catholic priest, and Marvin W. Makinen, 24, a college student.

The curious action of the Russians in rejecting American offers to return the bogus Baltches as well is no more puzzling to some officials than their long indifference to Col. Rudolf Abel, the master spy eventually traded to the Reds for Francis Gary Powers, CIA pilot.

The couple who stole the identities of Robert K. Baltch and Joy Ann Garber Baltch thus must face trial on indictments charging them with espionage and failing to register with the Secretary of State as foreign agents. Trial is scheduled to begin November 4 in Federal Court in the eastern district of New York at Brooklyn.

### Suggested by Reds

The Star learned today that the transaction was suggested by the Russians late in September and eventually involved both Secretary of State Rusk and Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko. When the State Department, in handling the negotiations, offered to throw in the Baltches, too, it was learned, the Russians refused even to acknowledge their existence.

Therefore, with the concurrence of the Justice Department, the transfer of the Egorovs was arranged in exchange for Father Clazek and Mr. Makinen. Espionage charges against the Egorovs were dropped on condition they